

Nova Scotia Film Bill Passed



Warning To Canadian Film Industry

Ray Presents

THE Act which was introduced by Mr. Malcolm A. Patterson, Liberal M.P. for Cape Breton West, and passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature before the session was terminated last Friday, is published on page 4.

The Act opens up a situation which will no doubt develop any efforts which have been made toward Conciliation. The fact that the Act was not legislated into action, and includes a clause as follows: "This Act shall come into force on from and after and not before such day as The Governor-in-Council orders and declares by Proclamation", leads us to conclude that the Government has co-operated with the sponsor of the Bill, who in turn has co-operated with those interested in the introduction of such a measure, not by way of forcing this legislation upon the Film Industry, but by way of showing them what they can expect if the present dissatisfaction in the Maritimes continues. It is the Nova Scotian way of saying what the United States has said to the Film Industry — "Put your film house in order or else".

AN examination of the Act will reveal that among such "blessings" to Independent exhibitors as it may contain, there are restrictions which are double-edged, meaning that if such restrictions become operative in the Film Act, they will cut both ways. Had producer-distributors heeded the suggestion as presented in The Digest many weeks ago, it is possible that the Patterson Bill in its present state would not have been introduced or passed.

When property owners who are tax-payers and voters band themselves together in a protest, the present mood of any Government to-day is to listen to what these tax-payers have to say.

We repeat what we have repeated so many times, "Monopoly belongs to the horse and buggy era". You cannot band yourselves together for the principles of Democracy without becoming an enemy of Monopoly as it refers to your personal freedom in trade and commerce. Distribution of product is back of most of the ills of the world today. Better distribution could solve our economic problems. Better and fairer distribution of product could solve most of the ills of the Motion Picture Industry.

Why should not the producer-distributors take every country, in which they distribute product, as a trade centre to be governed on its own, without any international complications interfering with the free distribution of product

in that particular country? Freer distribution of product will net producer-distributors of motion pictures 50% more revenue and will strengthen the Industry within itself, the fact increasing its public appeal and popularity.

OUR Little Gnat is back from "a much needed holiday" in Florida, the quotes are his. I don't think six weeks was long enough for he returned not full of sunshine but full of beans. I note that Mr. and Mrs. Firestone and daughter, returned from a holiday at Florida, Mr. A. Polakoff and his brother, Mr. George Lester, Mr. Harry Alexander, etc., all returned from the South, which looks as if the exhibitors are not only smart enough to remain in Show Business, but to secure for themselves a place in Florida's sun, where heretofore only big film magnates renewed their Film Strength!

This year will be an eventful one in Film History. We will all have to be strong to take it. The completed draft of the Trade Practice Code has classified the co-operatives with the circuit theatres, and combines, which means that the exhibitors who are in a co-operative are out of that classification called Independent, as far as the booking of pictures is concerned. Co-operatives have gone up in the film world, and henceforth they are to take their place with Circuit Chains and Combines.

It is the knowledge of this classification, perhaps a little sunstroke, or the green-eyed God, Jealousy, which has infuriated the Little Gnat, rushing him into print, which means more work for his Editor, who writes for everyone on the paper, so I have been told.

FIRSTLY, the Little Gnat starts off confusing "innuendos" with "statements" in a wild attack on me. But there is another story following this, which states that Ray Lewis released a story to the press about a proposed theatre which she is to build on College Street. It is this theatre which has turned our Sunny Little Gnat's face into a sourpuss. "The Independent" claims that the proposed theatre is in a congested zone; and that it is to get preferred product! Thanks for the idea.

Being a fair sheet (?), this same "Independent" did not mention that recently an Independent theatre was opened called, The Metro, operated by Manny Stein. It is located on Bloor Street at Manning Avenue, while The King's College is located at Manning Avenue

(Continued on Page 5)

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

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I.T.O.A. STATES NEW

CODE STEP RIGHT DIRECTION

THE I.T.O.A. in commenting on the completed trade practice code, stated that it was "a step in the right direction".

The association pointed out a few clauses which are not clearly set forth, two of which deal with "arbitration". For instance, the license fees and "other terms" or conditions which prevail as between exhibitor and distributor in connection with conditions on which a picture is licensed for exhibition, are not clearly set forth and are not subject to arbitration. There is also the question of the neutral panel in the question of "arbitration", which is to be selected by exhibitors and distributors. The I.T.O.A. believes that only independent exhibitors should choose the "neutral" members in case it is necessary to arbitrate.

The matter of classification is also questioned. The I.T.O.A. believes that once a picture has been given a classification of A, B or C, it should remain in that classification. But does that not prevent distributors from taking what they thought was an "A" picture, but which happens to be a box-office "flop" and moving it down to a lower rating? If you restrict the moving up grading you also restrict the moving down!

There is also the question of damages for breach of contract which appears unsatisfactory to the I.T.O.A. Members also have voted to support Jack Kirsch, President of Allied, in the campaign against double features.

ROXY BOOKINGS

Regina, Sask. — I. Reinhorn and Frank Hastings, manager and assistant manager respectively of the Roxy, Regina, returned recently from a three-day booking expedition at the Winnipeg Film Exchange.

Nova Scotia Film Act Passed - - Depends On Order-In-Council

B I L L

An Act to Amend Chapter 162 of the Revised Statutes, 1923, "The Theatres Cinematographs and Amusements Act".

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1. Chapter 162 of the Revised Statutes, 1923, "The Theatres Cinematographs and Amusements Act" is amended by adding thereto the following Sections:

15. Every Film Exchange carrying on business in Nova Scotia shall have an agent in the Province and shall from time to time notify the Board of the name and address of such agent.

16. (1) No Film Exchange shall sell, lease, rent, exchange or distribute any film in the Province without first having obtained from the Board a license therefor.

(2) The fee for such license shall be \$250.00 and every such license shall expire on the 30th day of November of each year.

17. The Board may require every Film Exchange or any particular Film Exchange or Film Exchanges to submit to the Board from time to time a statement showing:

(a) The name or other description of any or all Films proposed to be sold, leased, rented, exchanged or distributed by such Film Exchange in Nova Scotia during any period for which such information is available, and

(b) the terms and conditions on which any film has been or is proposed to be sold, rented, leased, exchanged or distributed to any theatre owner, and

(c) such other information relative to the sale, lease, rental, exchange or distribution of films in Nova Scotia as the Board may from time to time require.

18. Unjust discrimination by Film Exchanges in respect of the selling, leasing, renting, exchanging or distribution of films is hereby prohibited and declared unlawful.

19. If any Film Exchange shall knowingly or wilfully make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or unfair advantage to any theatre owner or shall subject any theatre owner to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or unfair disadvantage in any respect whatsoever, such Film Exchange shall be deemed guilty of unjust discrimination.

20. (1) No theatre owner shall, without the consent of the Board, be deprived of such number of films as the Board deems necessary to operate his theatre.

(2) No theatre owner shall contract for more films than are, in the opinion of the Board, reasonably required for the operation of his theatre for a period of one year.

21. (1) Where the Board is satisfied after due inquiry that any Film Exchange or theatre owner has violated any of the provisions of this Chapter, or of any regulations made hereunder, the Board may:

(a) revoke or cancel any license of such Film Exchange, or

(b) revoke or cancel any license of such theatre owner, or

(c) attach to any of such licenses such terms, conditions or restrictions as it deems advisable.

(2) The Board may act upon the report of any of its officers and any inquiry which it shall be deemed necessary to make may be made by any member of the Board or by an officer of the Board or some other person appointed by it to make the inquiry.

2. This act shall come into force on from and after and not before such day as The Governor-in-Council orders and declares by Proclamation.

REEL INCREASE AT RIALTO

Ottawa, Ont. — Martin Levinson, Manager of the Rialto Theatre, Bank Street house, has changed his Saturday time schedule. Performance opens at 10 a.m. and runs continuously until the final showings in the evening. The Rialto recently installed an air-conditioning system.

YES — "DARLING"

The Manitoba Censor Board has said "yes" to the film version of Mark Reed's play, "Yes, My Darling Daughter" and the picture is due for Winnipeg showings within the next two weeks.

The New York Board of Regents made several changes before permitting it in the moving picture houses. The Manitoba Censor Board passed this abridged version.

Our Little Gnat Gets Stung - - Rushes For Cover

(Continued from Page 3)

and College Street, just five blocks away.

It also forgot to mention that The Metro is situated about five blocks from three other theatres, operating for years, and which are all on Bloor Street near Bathurst, namely The Alhambra, The Madison and Allen's Bloor, and that The Madison, which the Brady family operated for years, has been closed this week following the opening of the Metro. The Alhambra is about a block from The Madison, and The Bloor is across the road from The Madison. We are not enumerating all the other theatres which are in what has been termed The Metro's Zone. Nevertheless, there is room for The Metro. We wish Mr. Stein the best of luck!

WHEN The Bellevue was built at Brunswick Avenue and College Street, it came in a neighborhood of two other theatres, The Garden and The College Playhouse — Independent theatres. The Garden belonging to Joe Cohen, and The Playhouse to Mr. Becker.

When The Strand, at the corner of Spadina Avenue and Dundas Street, decided to change from Yiddish drama to motion pictures, it came into competition with The Liberty (now La-Salle), across the road on Dundas Street, operated by Max Starkman, an Independent.

When The Avenue, built by two other Independents, decided to open on Eglinton Avenue, the competition was The Eglinton, right across the street, a F.P. house.

When Mr. Freedman, another member of the Co-operative, decided to go to St. Catharines, Ont., he built a theatre about four doors from Mrs. O. McMaster's theatre (Griffin Theatres Ltd.) and with a Famous Players' theatre less than a half a block away from his Centre Theatre.

When The Royal Theatre was built at Woodstock, Ontario, this Independent chose a location less than five blocks away on the same street as Mrs. O. McMaster's theatre, in operation.

Returning to St. Catharines, Ontario, there is another Independent theatre going up there, just around the corner from the other three theatres. This makes four theatres almost next door to each other — but this does not stop the independents building in good locations.

TORONTO is being scoured for theatre sites, so is the whole province of Ontario. Most active in theatre building are the members of Little Gnat's Co-operative, and they look neither to the right, nor to the left of locations, as long as the town is good, the money is there, and the mortgages are available. So why this feature story about a proposed new theatre on College Street, in a congested area?

Is it not a case of sour grapes doing a little internal griping, because Ray Lewis as an exhibitor might dip her daily bread into some of the Little Gnat's gravy, the gravy which was floured for the Little Gnat with some of Ray Lewis's dough, back in the days when the Little Gnat was a poor student studying law, and Ray Lewis officiated as Secretary for the M.P.T.O.A. but gave the poor Little Gnat the salary which

was voted to her for her services, just to help him out financially!

Wise Little Gnats should store up for a rainy day, because sucker money, be it from exhibitors or secretaries, may not always be available. Incidentally, Ray Lewis released no story for the press — when she gets ready to talk, you will read what she has to say in The Digest. However, what can you expect from a paper whose Editor compares the selling of pictures with the selling of clothing, as if there can be any comparison, save that some exhibitors have been in the clothing business and coats and suits are like pictures to them.

AFIRE occurred the night The Metro Theatre opened. Every newspaper published the story in Toronto. Every member of the trade at Toronto knew that the fire had occurred the opening night. The Digest reported it in last week's issue. But "The Independent sheet" headlines that it occurred the following day — why?

As for the Little Gnat's Co-operative — exhibitors, you have heard your classification in the new Trade Practice Code. It looks as if it will be better for Independent Exhibitors to be members of an association, but not members of a Co-operative. You won't need Conciliation if the new Trade Practice Code becomes operative. Arbitration is back stronger than ever in the new Trade Practice clauses.

MY analysis of the whole position in which exhibitors find themselves, irrespective of the New Trade Practice draft, resolves itself down to one conclusion, that nine major companies, producer-distributors, control the Film Industry, not only through product control, but principally through their combined and united strength. They are in an Association for their individual and collective protection and benefit — they do not attack each other! They will always dominate the Film Industry because the Independents always waste their ammunition attacking each other! You have an example of such an attack in the Independent sheet — what a waste of space!

Before closing, however, may we remind our Little Gnat of the episode of "The Big Gnat and The Little Gnat" and ask him why he is so vigorous in his denials of any affiliation with the Big Gnat, when once upon a time he was so eager to come under the Big Gnat's wings! After reading the Little Gnat's special article about the greed of big chains, etc., one would conclude that the Big Gnat must have sat upon the Little Gnat's greed, without even a declaration of such intent.

Ever had a bee sit upon you? It's an assinine question, but there's a sting in the story!



20 Century-Fox Policy Announced With 1939-40 Product

52 FEATURES IN INCREASED BUDGET 5 COSTING \$2,000,000

IN looking over the statement of policy as outlined by 20th Century-Fox and presented under the signatures of S. R. Kent, President of 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation, Darryl Zanuck, Vice-President in Charge of Production and Herman Wobber, General Manager of Distribution, with Joseph M. Schenck as Chairman of the Board, we find that this company will release 52 features in its 1939-40 program.

Titles Pages 7 - 22

The titles, the stars and the players, including the directors for the production of the releases, are listed on pages 18 and 19 of The Digest.

Literary Properties

In looking over the story material presented as "literary properties" and cited in the announcement, "the most important ever offered by this company," we note a production based on Louis Bromfield's best selling novel, "The Rains Came", which co-stars Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power, George Brent—its supporting cast is brilliant; Maeterlinck's "The Blue Bird", stars Shirley Temple in Technicolor — "Drums Along The Mohawk" from Walter Edmonds' best of best-sellers, and "Little Old New York" by Rida Johnson Young, successful as a stage production and in which Alice Faye will star.

Another Shirley Temple

Mrs. C. V. Jamieson's "Lady Jane" for Shirley Temple. An S. S. Van Dine Mystery thriller, title not yet announced, but in which Sonja Henie will be the star. Elsa Maxwell's, "Hotel For Women", co-author Kathryn Scola. "Johnnie Apollo", story by Samuel G. Engel, Hal Long and Roland Brown. Frank Wead's story of modern aviation, "20,000 Men A Year". Gordon Hillman's McCall Magazine story, "Here I Am A Stranger" and "Scotland Yard" by Denison Clift another stage play winner.

Irving Berlin's Music

Irving Berlin's "Say It With Music" an American cavalcade which found its story woven from twenty-five of the most popular of Berlin's melodies. W. R. Burnett's colorful "The Giant Swing", a drama of power and interest.

Big Star. Big Story Values

There is, in addition to these adaptations of stage and story successes, and original screen material by famous writers, the following array of titles which indicate big star, big cast, big direction and big story values!

African Wilds

"Stanley and Livingstone", which will be produced as a result of a two year camera hunt, during a special expedition in the African wilds. The director is Henry King and the cast ablaze with starry names such as Spencer Tracy, Richard Greene, Nancy Kelly, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Walter Brennan, Henry Hull, Henry Travers, Charles Coburn, etc., etc. "Maryland", produced as a companion production to "Kentucky", is to be in Technicolor. Sonya Levien is the author and she has built her story around thoroughbred horses, their breeding background, the State of Maryland.

Sonja Henie Ice Ballet

"Everything Happens At Night" has a challenging romantic comedy angle, providing spectacular settings for the youth, beauty and grace of Sonja Henie and the shimmering-radiance of ice ballets.

Tyrone Power For Zorro

"The Mark of Zorro" recalls one of the biggest Douglas Fairbanks' silent screen successes. 20th Century-Fox will adapt this box-office wonder to the talents of Tyrone Power, giving him one of those dashing, romantic roles so suited to his personality. "Swansee River" will star Don Ameche in a song and drama story of the Old South.

"Boys Town" Authors

"Dance With The Devil" is an original story by William Rankin and Eleanore Griffin, co-authors of another box-office winner with which you are familiar, "Boys Town". "Frontier Marshal" which presents the exploits of that historic character Wyatt Earp, is a dramatization of the West as we heard of The West in those days when men were men and the women were glad of it!

And Now Comedy

Warner Baxter and Binnie Barnes are co-starred in a hilarious revel, brimful of comedy and romance, "He Married His Wife".

Some Thrills

Khyber Pass, which suggests British regiments, natives, heroic action and blood-letting, is rich material for a production lavish in its settings and cast and which is entitled, "The Khyber Rifles". "Breach of Discipline" will have for its subject matter, women in the medical profession. This story has been a sensational European stage hit. There will be an epic production in the presentation of "Steinmetz, The Great", a biographical odyssey of his early struggles, and his achievements, through which runs the quick silver thread of romance. "Red Cross Nurse" will be patterned after the career of Florence Nightingale, not her life, but the women who follow her inspirational traditions!

Mormon Leader

Among the stirring personalities for 20th Century-Fox production, is that colourful and grim Brigham Young, the illustrious founder of the Mormon church, who contributed his share toward the building of the United States and who may be listed among the pioneers of American history.

European Swindlers

We have had stories dealing with women's role in espionage, most of these stories furnishing fascinating drama. 20th Century-Fox is to produce a story called, "I Was An Adventuress" and the woman in this case will be the leader of a band of European swindlers. "A Deal In Hearts" is a new version of the Triangle, in which wife holds the winning race!

"The Little Diplomat"

Shirley Temple has a perfect vehicle we are told, in "The Little Diplomat". Remember "The Little Colonel"? So you know what you are to expect from Shirley Temple's diplomacy!

"Lillian Russell"

The era that gave Broadway its glittering name of The Great White Way, is best remembered in theatre history for the stardom and fame of its brightest star, Lillian Russell. 20th Century-Fox will produce a picture by the name which suggests laughter, champagne, diamonds, songs, love, in short a short life and a merry one—so laugh clown, laugh!

(Continued on Page 23)

French Version Of "Snow White" Released In New York

*A STATEMENT OF POLICY
AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT
OF 1939-40 PRODUCT
FROM 20TH CENTURY-FOX
FILM CORPORATION.*

Without hysteria, without braggadocio, without making rash promises that we can never hope to fulfill, Twentieth Century-Fox proudly presents its program for the season 1939-40.

The company will release fifty-two pictures.

In the following pages, we list titles, stars, players and directors that will be used to make up our 1939-40 program.

The literary properties outlined are the most important ever offered by this company. From this list will be selected the pictures that will make up our next year's group.

In spite of their great merit, a certain percentage of our story properties will fail to develop, because there always has been and always will be a percentage that, in final form, will not reach up to Studio expectations and must be replaced or dropped.

This is a situation which is inherent in the production of motion pictures.

These hazards, these changes, these heartbreaking disappointments are realized only by the man who has to deal day by day with the actual problems of production, but they exist in our industry and they cannot be eliminated.

As to the casts, we list that group of personalities un-

der contract to this company and those already borrowed from the outside from whom these pictures will be cast.

Other deals of course will be made, other names will be added from time to time as they have been in past years; but we do not mention our hopes in many directions simply because these negotiations are not actually completed.

In asking you, our customers, to purchase this product, we call your attention to the following facts on which you can base your judgment:

1. The production record of this company for the past four years since the 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation was formed.
2. The list of important box-office names under contract to this organization plus our ability to buy our share of additional talent in the open market.

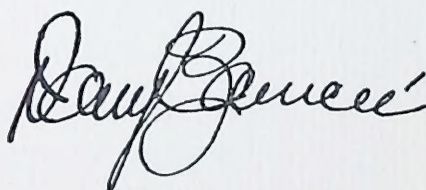
3. The list of impressive and well-known properties from which our program will be made, plus the purchase of other timely books or stage plays offered on the market which may be superior to or more timely than some of those we have indicated in spite of their respective merit.
4. The incentive to continue to operate and conduct a successful and constantly growing company and to secure the continued good will and respect of the thousands of contented customers the world over which this company enjoys.
5. The mutual necessity of making product that will produce a profit for ourselves and for you, which can only be done in the future as in the past by producing the greatest number of money-making box-office attractions.

These ingredients and the reasons as stated above plus this company's well-known record do not make so-called blind buying quite as blind as some would make you believe.

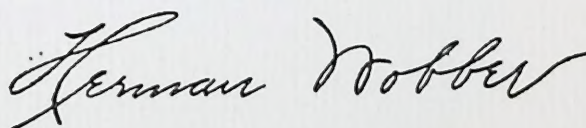
To the exhibitor who has used 20th Century-Fox product these past four years, we pledge the utmost that is possible to deliver a continuous flow of well made and profit-making quality motion pictures, to the end that we can continue to deserve and secure that support and confidence that has made this company's record one of which we are all very proud.



President, 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation



Vice-President in Charge of Production



General Manager of Distribution

OF THE 52 20TH CENTURY-FOX PICTURES FOR PRODUCE 24 FROM THE FOLLOWING GREAT

THE RAINS CAME

The biggest production ever attempted by 20th Century-Fox. Based on Louis Bromfield's best selling novel. Directed by Clarence Brown. Co-starring MYRNA LOY, TYRONE POWER, GEORGE BRENT with a supporting cast including Cesar Romero, Joseph Schildkraut, Maria Ouspenskaya and Henry Travers.

STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE

A production that has been more than two years in the making. A special expedition braved the African wilds for months to obtain authentic scenes. Directed by Henry King. The cast is one of the most impressive in screen history: SPENCER TRACY, RICHARD GREENE, NANCY KELLY, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Walter Brennan, Henry Hull, Henry Travers, Charles Coburn, thousands more.

HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE

The "Big Parade" of film history . . . patterned to the scale of "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Co-starring ALICE FAYE and DON AMECHE. A cast blazing with luminaries of the film capital. Screen play by Ernest Pascal, from a story by Lou Breslow.

MARYLAND

In TECHNICOLOR. Produced as a companion picture to "Kentucky." Tingling and fascinating drama that revolves around the breeding of thoroughbred trotting horses and the glorious history of the state of Maryland. From the story by Sonya Levien.

Maeterlinck's

THE BLUE BIRD

Starring SHIRLEY TEMPLE. In TECHNICOLOR. One of the most important properties ever acquired by this industry. Based on the play and book of world-wide fame. To be produced with a lavishness that will make it stand out among even the very biggest of 20th's top-bracket hits.

THE COMING YEAR, DARRYL F. ZANUCK WILL PROPERTIES OR OTHERS EVEN GREATER

EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT

Starring SONJA HENIE. Romantic comedy, thrilling with the grace and heart-lifting beauty of the most spectacular ice ballets yet to present this top-ranking "First Ten" star.

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK

In TECHNICOLOR. From Walter Edmonds' best of best-sellers. Two whole years of research and writing have been devoted to getting the full throbbing power of this story of pioneer trappers and the American Revolution onto the screen. Its multi-star cast will be one of the year's most impressive.

THE MARK OF ZORRO

TYRONE POWER will star in this adaptation of one of the most sensationally successful and colorful boxoffice hits in all screen history. A role ideally suited for this most versatile and dashing of great stars. Truly big-picture!

A BRITON AT YALE

RICHARD GREENE'S sky-rocketing popularity will leap forward again with the showing of this attraction — an intensely dramatic story woven around the traditions and high-spirited activities of one of America's greatest universities.

SWANEE RIVER

The romantic Old South in song and drama. Starring DON AMECHE in a characterization that gives full play to his wealth of talent.

LITTLE OLD NEW YORK

Starring ALICE FAYE. The famous play by Rida Johnson Young, a notable success on stage and screen, rich in heart-warming sentiment and romance. Perfect for the glorious abilities of beautiful Alice Faye.

LADY JANE

Another SHIRLEY TEMPLE dramatic spectacle . . . produced with all the breath-taking scope of "The Little Princess." Resplendent with the brilliant and reckless gaiety of New Orleans at Mardi Gras. From the classic by Mrs. C. V. Jamieson. Directed by Walter Lang.

AN S. S. VAN DINE MYSTERY

(TITLE TO COME)

A master-stroke of showmanship stars SONJA HENIE in a story by one of the greatest living writers of detective fiction. A picture loaded with the electrifying surprises for which Van Dine is famous.

Elsa Maxwell's

HOTEL FOR WOMEN

The flair of the famous Elsa for the daring has made her entertainments internationally famous. Here she makes her debut as a screen personality . . . in a story she co-authored with Kathryn Scola. A spontaneous-publicity natural . . . a word-of-mouth sensation. Directed by Gregory Ratoff. The first of three Cosmopolitan Productions.

DANCE WITH THE DEVIL

An original story by William Rankin and Eleanore Griffin, who wrote "Boys Town."

FRONTIER MARSHAL

A dramatization of the West in its most lawless and tumultuous days . . . depicting the never-to-be-forgotten exploits of historic Wyatt Earp.

HE MARRIED HIS WIFE

WARNER BAXTER and BINNIE BARNES, who scored so brilliantly in "Wife, Husband and Friend," in a story even richer in hilarity and romance.

THE KHYBER RIFLES

A story of heroic action . . . as British regiments and native hordes clash for the gateway to India . . . historic, blood-drenched Khyber Pass. To be produced on a lavish scale.

JOHNNIE APOLLO

Vital with timely significance and drama . . . showing the disillusionment of modern youth facing a troubled world. Story by Samuel G. Engel, Hal Long and Roland Brown.

20,000 MEN A YEAR

Quick-on-the-trigger alertness won 20th this story of modern aviation's newest phase—the fliers of tomorrow and their training in American colleges. Thrilling and alive with youth. From the story by Frank Wead.

HERE I AM A STRANGER

Sincere, moving, powerful, human! Father and son drama against a college background. From the novel by Gordon Hillman, first published in McCall's magazine.

SCOTLAND YARD

Based on the famous stage play of the same name by Denison Clift. Pulse-pounding with all the suspense and fascination its title suggests.

BREACH OF DISCIPLINE

The sensational European stage hit about women in the medical profession.

STEINMETZ, THE GREAT

A production of epic scope, revealing the human side of the scientist whose miracles captured every imagination. His early struggles and romance make a story compelling with real-life impact.

RED CROSS NURSE

A tribute to that inspiring group of women, followers of the Florence Nightingale tradition, whose heroism has repeatedly thrilled the world.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

America's pages know no more arresting and vital figure than the illustrious founder of the Mormon Church. His indomitable courage in the face of crushing obstacles constitutes one of the most grippingly dramatic stories ever written.

Irving Berlin's

SAY IT WITH MUSIC

An exciting new type of American cavalcade—original, different! Mellow with heart-warming memories inspired by 25 of the most popular melodies ever written. Prodigious with all that makes for production greatness!

I WAS AN ADVENTURESS

Vivid-as-life experiences of a woman who led a band of European swindlers. Unmatched for minute-to-minute excitement.

A DEAL IN HEARTS

A bright comedy of domestic relations and complications . . . involving a wife who fought the eternal triangle with fire.

THE LITTLE DIPLOMAT

Starring SHIRLEY TEMPLE. A perfect vehicle . . . to be produced with the abundance of show values with which 20th has determined to surround the world's No. 1 star!

DANCE HALL

Adapted from W. R. Burnett's colorful and powerful novel of the steel workers, "The Giant Swing." Directed by Gregory Ratoff.

LILLIAN RUSSELL

Brightest star of the brightest days of New York musical comedy, her story glistens romantically with diamond brilliance, sparkles with champagne effervescence. The era that gave the Gay White Way its name.

BELLE STARR

The famous woman outlaw of the turbulent West whose deeds of brazen daring rivalled those of Jesse James.

THE POSTMAN WALKS ALONE

One of the most compelling titles and one of the most vital stories the studio has scheduled for production.



These Popular Series

SOL M. WURTZEL, *Executive Producer*

4 CHARLIE CHAN PRODUCTIONS

Even stronger casts and higher-budget production are planned this year, following the enthusiastic acceptance by exhibitors and the public of Sidney Toler in the title role!

4 JONES FAMILY SERIES

The constantly-growing affection of theatre-goers for this family—both individually and as a group—is being reflected in successively larger boxoffice returns. More important story material will still further strengthen their value to you.

3 MR. MOTO ADVENTURES

Peter Lorre, as the famous Saturday Evening Post sleuth, has steadily become a more firmly established boxoffice asset. Added impetus will be given his popularity by the stronger material afforded him in 1939-40.

4 JANE WITHERS COMEDIES

The wisdom of 20th's star strategy is reflected in the fact that Jane Withers, again in 1938, was high in the enviable "First Ten." Plans for the forthcoming season include important casts and stories calculated to widen her top-rank appeal and marquee pull.

—and—

13 ADDITIONAL FEATURES

As yet untitled.

THE PRODUCING ORGANIZATION

DARRYL F. ZANUCK

Vice-President in Charge of Production

WILLIAM GOETZ

*Vice-President and Executive Assistant
to Darryl F. Zanuck*

SOL M. WURTZEL

Executive Producer

Associate Producers

Harry Joe Brown
Raymond Griffith
David Hempstead
Nunnally Johnson
Edward Kaufman
Kenneth Macgowan
Gene Markey
John Stone

Directors

Otto Brower
Irving Cummings
Roy Del Ruth
Allan Dwan
John Ford
Eugene J. Forde
Norman Foster
Herbert I. Leeds
Henry King
Walter Lang
Sidney Lanfield
George Marshall
Gregory Ratoff
William A. Seiter
Malcolm St. Clair
Alfred Werker

The Writers

Jack Andrews
Arthur Arthur
John Balderston
Edwin Blum
Lou Breslow
Walter Bullock
William A. Drake
S. G. Duncan
Philip Dunne
Kenneth Earle
Walter D. Edmonds
Robert Ellis
Don Ettlinger
Robert Harrari
Sam Hellman
Anne Herendeen
Ethel Hill
Joseph Hoffman
Leonard Hoffman
Betty Hopkins
Frances Hyland
Boris Ingster
Frank L. James
Rian James
Jack Jungmeyer

Curtis Kenyon, Jr.
Fidel La Barba
John Larkin
Henry Lehrman
Sonya Levien
Helen Logan
Walter Morosco
Morris M. Musselman
Samuel Ornitz
Ernest Pascal
William Rankin
Eleanore Griffin
Gregory Ratoff
Albert Ray
Allen Rivkin
Sid Silvers
Richard Sherman
Edith Skouras
Milton Sperling
Barry Trivers
Lamar Trotti
Harry Tugend
Karl Tunberg
Jack Vernon
Darrell Ware
Frank Wead

THE STARS AND PLAYERS

The personalities listed below include only those now under contract to 20th Century-Fox. Other established names will be cast in fulfillment of story demands. And 20th will continue its successful practice of developing talent into stars of maximum value.

Shirley Temple

Sidney Toler

Russell Gleason

Tyrone Power

Jane Withers

Kane Richmond

Sonja Henie

Lionel Atwill

Joseph Schildkraut

Alice Faye

Henry Fonda

George Sanders

Don Ameche

Joan Davis

Slim Summerville

Nancy Kelly

The Ritz Brothers

Wally Vernon

Richard Greene

John Carradine

Marjorie Weaver

Cesar Romero

Lynn Bari

Arleen Whelan

Annabella

Spring Byington

Florence Roberts

Warner Baxter

Jed Prouty

Amanda Duff

Binnie Barnes

Eddie Collins

Pauline Moore

Peter Lorre

Douglas Fowley

Joan Valerie

SHORT PRODUCT

The policy of producing its own short subjects, under the supervision of Truman Talley, has evoked such a gratifying exhibitor response that 20th Century-Fox will continue it this season. Quality will again guide the planning of these one-reel featurettes.

6 LOWELL THOMAS' MAGIC CARPET OF MOVIE-TONE

Incomparably the finest in its field, narrated by the greatest voice of screen or radio. A subject whose breath-takingly beautiful photography and interesting subject matter has made it a "must" for all the better theatres.

6 ED THORGERSEN'S SPORTS REVIEWS

Already, in one season, an established success. Its unique "inside story" slant on outstanding sports activities accounts for its great popularity. Narrated by the man who knows . . . and knows how to tell it.

6 DRIBBLE-PUSS PARADES

The absurdities, peculiarities and laughs in life are shown on the screen while America's No. 1 funny man, Lew Lehr, convulses you with his cock-eyed comment.

4 ADVENTURES OF A NEWSREEL CAMERAMAN

To be individually produced—not compiled as in the past—thus heightening the amazing thrill and suspense that have made this series one of your surest-fire attractions.

4 VYVYAN DONNER FASHION FORECASTS

In **TECHNICOLOR**. A subject with sensational feminine appeal that has taken the men by storm. The tops in smartness, beauty and audience pull. With sparkling comment by Ilka Chase that would, in itself, mark this series as outstanding.

—and—

26 TERRYTOONS

Paul Terry's organization will have *ten* subjects in **TECHNICOLOR** this season—five of which will be delivered before January 1, marking another forward stride in this company's live-wire production schedule.



MOVIETONE NEWS

Probably never before in this country's life has the public been so intensely interested in news the world over . . . making it a matter of utmost importance that your theatre show the finest in newsreels. Movietone News' farflung international organization . . . the morale of its cameramen who snatch scoops in the very midst of peril . . . the unequalled speed with which it rushes the news to your screen . . . its incomparable corps of editorial specialists . . . all make it unchallenged No. 1 in newsreels. Issued twice each week.

TRUMAN TALLEY
Vice-President and Producer

LOWELL THOMAS
News Commentator

LEW LEHR
Newsettes

ED THORGERSEN
Sports Commentator

EDMUND REEK
General Manager

RUSSELL MUTH
European Director

HARRY LAWRENSON
Foreign Editor

VYVYAN DONNER and HELEN CLAIRE
Feminine World

FIRST QUARTER RELEASES 1939-40

(TENTATIVE)

*Release Date**Production*

August 5	HOTEL FOR WOMEN
12	CHICKEN WAGON FAMILY (starring Jane Withers)
19	HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE
26	MR. MOTO adventure
September 2	STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE
9	THE JONES FAMILY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR (N. Y.)
16	HE MARRIED HIS WIFE
23	CHARLIE CHAN AT TREASURE ISLAND
30	RED CROSS NURSE
October 7	STOP, LOOK AND LOVE
14	A BRITON AT YALE
21	HOLD ME TIGHT
28	THE RAINS CAME



JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
Chairman of the Board

SIDNEY R. KENT
President

Shirley Temple Heads List of Brilliant Stars

(Continued from Page 6)

A Female Jesse James

As the female of the Jesse James species, there is to be a picture centred around Belle Starr, whose career of daring, of outlawry, rivaled that of Jesse James in that era best explained as "wild west". "The Postman Walks Alone", is another scheduled production which provokes the query, but does he when he is always accompanied by the "Mail"? But, seriously speaking, think of the title, "The Postman Walks Alone", does it not suggest a world of interest?

Popular Series

In addition to the feature titles as listed, there are to be the series which have already won their place as "Popular Series", with Sol M. Wurtzel as their Executive producer. 4 Charlie Chan productions, with Sidney Toler as "Chan". 4 Jones Family Series, you know how you and the public always try to "keep up with the Joneses", following them individually and as a family! 3 Mr. Moto Adventures, the Peter Lorre—Saturday Evening Post sleuth, who is steadily establishing himself as a box-office favorite.

Jane Withers Stars

4 Jane Withers comedies. That little "big punch" girl who climbs into "First Ten" for box-office draw; and whose starry rays magnetize patrons into the theatres which light up Jane's name upon their marquee!

Thirteen additional features are included in the list of fifty-two.

Overseers of Production

In charge of production, Darryl F. Zanuck has William Goetz, Vice-President as his Executive assistant, and Sol M. Wurtzel as Executive producer. The list of Associate Producers includes: Harry Joe Brown, Raymond Griffith, Nunnally Johnson, Edward Kaufman, Kenneth Macgowan, Gene Markey, John Stone. The sixteen names mentioned as directors, are all familiar ones to exhibitors. They are names identified with pictures which have "clicked".

Shirley Heads List

The star list, headed by Shirley Temple, numbers thirty-six players who are known to the Screen patrons of the world!

Short Subjects Schedule

In addition to feature material, 20th Century-Fox continues to present its own short subjects, under the supervision of Truman Talley, conspicuous always for their stamp of quality. 6 Lowell Thomas' Magic Carpet Movietones. 6 Ed Thorgersen's Sport Re-

views. 6 Dribble-Puss Parades. 4 Adventures of a Newsreel Camera-man. 4 Vyvyan Donner Fashion Forecasts and 26 Terrytoons, ten of which will be presented in Technicolor.

Movietone News

The world interest in News of the World, will be seen through the camera of Movietone News, issued twice weekly and which has for its service a corps of editorial and camera specialists, combining daring adventure, reportorial skill, which makes Movietone News the 'News of the Hour'.

Delivery

The present indications list four features for August, five for September and four for October. These constitute the first quarter of releases for 1939-40. See detailed list for productions, stars, directors, authors, pages 7-22.

A Book of Golden Promise

The 20th Century-Fox presentation is a book of words—a book of golden promise! There is no pictorial material—in this it establishes a precedent by way of telling its story.

To The Exhibitor

Above the signatures of the President, S. R. Kent, the Vice-President, Darryl Zanuck in Charge of Production, and the General Manager of Distribution, Mr. Wobber, there is this paragraph; "To the exhibitor who has used 20th Century-Fox productions these past four years, we pledge the utmost that is possible to deliver a continuous flow of well made and profit-making quality motion pictures, to the end that we can continue to deserve and secure that support and confidence that has made this company's record one of which we are all very proud".

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TORONTO MONTREAL

COL. JOY THUMBS DOWN NEELY BILL

Colonel Jason Joy in commenting on the Neely Bill clause referring to the presentation of synopsis of story, saying that such a provision was impractical and would impede production, certainly picked out one of the weakest clauses in that bill; and one which we imagine no exhibitor could seriously be interested in seeing enforced.

What do exhibitors know about a synopsis in relationship to a finished picture? If ever any exhibitors attended a rehearsal of a stage show they would realize that many of the most successful lines of a stage play have been introduced ad lib by the players.

In the matter of block booking, we cannot see the advantage of buying pictures one at a time, as appears to be necessary under the Neely Bill. How can an exhibitor remain in business, or plan his season on single selection buying?

WARNER PROMOTIONS

Lou Geller, branch manager of Warner Brothers, Calgary, Alta., returned from his honeymoon and trip to New York convention April 10 to find promotion awaiting him. Mr. Geller left Calgary April 15 for Winnipeg where he has taken over the management of Manitoba distribution for Warners.

Sam I. Pearlman, chief booker at the Calgary office, is promoted to manager of the Calgary branch.

SPECIAL PARTY PRICE

Watrous, Sask. — The Roxy Theatre has been reopened by Mr. Zaitzow, owner, and will operate six nights a week. Frank Cole has been appointed Manager. Announcement was published in local paper that the theatre would be pleased to offer reasonable rates to schools, churches or fraternal organizations for parties of 25 or more. There will be a complete change of program every Monday and Thursday.

HEARING AID

Chatham, Ont.—The Capitol Theatre here has announced the installation of a Walker-Rubberoid Sound Screen in the new increased size of 15 by 20 feet. Mr. A. P. Drohan, Manager for Famous Players here, also reported that a new Webster-Trimmm Hearing Aid had been acquired by the theatre; through this aid patrons may hear the recording through headsets which can be plugged into seats in either of the two back rows of the theatre.

BOO DICTATORS ON SCREENS

Winnipeg, Man. — Public feeling in Winnipeg against Germany and Italy and for Chamberlain is being expressed in increasingly noisy demonstrations by Winnipeg theatre audiences at almost every news reel showing in which the leaders of the respective countries are shown.

One downtown theatre currently has a news reel showing both the King of Italy and the reception in England of President Lebrun of France. The audience greets the screen appearance of the king of Italy with loud boos and hisses which usually lasts until the scene changes. The pictures of King George, Queen Elizabeth and Chamberlain welcoming Lebrun are received with loud handclapping.

Hitler is currently on the news reel screen at a neighborhood theatre. The reaction is the same. Hisses and jeers, usually started by an uncertain few, rise above the voice of the film commentator.

FILMS FOR DEMOCRACY

Regina, Sask. — Donald Fraser, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Film Committee of Ottawa, in Regina recently, discussed the aid films might be for the cause of Democracy. On a tour across Canada for the purpose of arousing public interest in the films for use in schools as a visual and auditory aid, he stated that the dictatorship countries, Germany, Russia, and Italy, were making the greatest use of the educational films. In Germany nearly every class room had its projectors.

Mr. Fraser said, "These countries realize the high value of films to spread propaganda. We are constantly being bombarded by Fascist and Communistic propaganda. It's time we started a bombardment for Democracy".

The Canadian Film Committee at present is operating on a grant made to it by the Imperial Relations Trust. The aim of the committee is to promote the use of strictly Canadian films.

SIMON MERETSKY IN "WINDSOR STAR"

Windsor, Ont. — Simon Meretsky had a nice one-column plug in the "Windsor Star", and his picture beside it, under heading "New Advance". The reason for all this publicity, was the installation of new sound equipment and screen at the Capitol Theatre. In his letter to The Editor, Mr. Meretsky described in detail the new equipment, installed at a cost of \$7,000 and finished up with a real "Simon Meretsky touch" — "Moving pictures always have been the most outstanding entertainment, and now we have the equipment to harmonize. I hope everyone will enjoy themselves to their heart's content".

DAVID WALKER PASSES AT CANNES

Montreal, Que. — David Scott Walker, 79 year old resident of Montreal, died in Cannes, just two weeks after he had married Mrs. E. Tipling Sisman of Detroit.

Mr. Walker was for many years Secretary-Treasurer of the J. B. Sparrow Amusement Company, which owned His Majesty's Theatre, the Princess Theatre and the Theatre Francais. He was a man of considerable wealth, and brought many English theatrical companies to Canada. He entertained lavishly the leading personalities of the theatre and numbered among his personal friends, Bernhardt, Irving, Beerbohm Tree, Terry, Sir John Martin Harvey, Harry Tait and Marie Lloyd. Although Mr. Walker established residence at Nice, he returned every year to Montreal during the winter.

GOLDWYN-U.A. ACTION RE-FILED

Samuel Goldwyn seeks in a re-filed action to cancel his contract with U.A. and asks in his re-filed action whether the allegations which he has already made are not sufficient to have already breached his contract? Here's hoping for an olive branch!

"MOVIE DIGEST" NOT RAMBLING ALONG

Rumour reaches us that copies of Roly Young's Nathanson financed "Movie Digest" were given away free to the patrons at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, last week. We also have been told that the "Movie Digest" is to cease publication.

Meanwhile The Canadian Moving Picture Digest is bringing an action for infringement of its trademark, against the Movie Digest Company.

Solicitors for "Movie Digest" have been refused registration of "Movie Digest" trademark, by the Government's Department of Patents at Ottawa, owing to the fact that The Canadian Moving Picture Digest has a priority right of the use of such trademark.

"THIS WAY, PLEASE"

Toronto, Ont. — "Jack Arthur was elected to bring dignity to picture presentations" — we quote from the two page article by Angus McStay in MacLean's Magazine, issue of April 15th. Under the heading, "This Way, Please", the public is told all about "The Motion Picture Theatre Usher, Ensign of the Aisles, Diplomat Extraordinary". More quotes—"The legend in the motion picture industry, and this is generally accepted, is that Jack Arthur went to Kingston one Graduation Day to witness the march past and manoeuvres of the Royal Military College cadets, and that the idea of precision in the theatre hit him then and there. Arthur patiently disputes this and claims that long before that expedition to the Limestone City, the "military system" had been established in Canada's major theatres." Further details on "ushership" from your local theatre manager!

REGINA ELECTIONS

Regina, Sask. — The National Film Society, Regina Branch, at its last meeting for 1938-39 season, elected R. W. Robertson as President of the branch. S. C. Atkinson, of General Films Ltd., was re-elected Vice-President; R. L. Coleman, Secretary; W. Jones named Treasurer.

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and
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Projectors and Parts.
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Coleman Electric Co.

258 Victoria St.
TORONTO, ONT.

EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

**Ontario Mayors' Association Approved Motion To Ask Government Right To Levy
Amusement Tax Up To 20%**

16 mm. In Canada May Develop Film Battle

Regina, Sask. — One of the most bitter, but so far undeclared, wars in western Canada's film industry is now being waged between the west's two prime 16 mm. distributors, General Films, head office, Regina, and Sovereign Films, Calgary. This was disclosed in a recent interview with Stan Atkinson, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Regina firm.

General Films, an expanding business with branch offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg, was established in 1936, but can trace its ancestry back to 1919 when it was founded as the Regina Photo Supply. It now employs a staff of forty, serves fourteen commercial exhibitors in Saskatchewan, and has a total of about 75 clients including sound, educational and silent exhibitors.

Up to the present General Films has had a firm hold in the Saskatchewan field — a hold secured by much work and expense. Conflict with 35 mm. men had to be avoided, territories had to be scouted, exhibitors aided in every possible way, and the showing of educational films in schools and other institutions promoted. In time the firm became an integral part of the western film trade. Many exhibitors were signed to five year contracts. But lately there have been attempts to influence these contracts.

Mr. Atkinson has no objection to legitimate competition. His policy is live and let live, and he has no desire to monopolize the west. But the fact that he does not regard the present competition as entirely ethical is revealed in his own carefully worded statement.

"We have excellent reasons to believe that representatives of Sovereign Films are endeavoring to influence exhibitors to violate contract and license agreements made with General Films."

Mr. Atkinson added that he had the necessary evidence to support this charge but that he was not prepared to divulge it. When and if it will be released, he did not say. Nor did he reveal its exact nature, although he did hint it proved the tactics of his competitors were none too salubrious.

Among other points touched upon by Mr. Atkinson was the relation between the 16 mm. and the 35 mm. men in the province. He could see no grounds for dispute between the two. As he saw it, instead of being a competitor, the 16 mm. film was actually a booster of the 35 mm. film. It helped create the movie habit among people

who ordinarily would not see more than one or two pictures a year.

"It is a fact," he said, "that in Pense, just outside of Regina, our exhibitor found that 80% of the people in the district had never seen a talky, and surprising number had never even seen a silent picture. That was two years ago. Many of these people are regular film fans now and when they go to the city they take in a show before returning home."

"Also," he stated, "it has always been the policy of General Films not to supply programs for commercial exhibitors in any city, town, village or hamlet where 35 mm. film is in regular use."

Anyway Mr. Atkinson is not particularly concerned about 35 mm. competition as he believes the future of the 16 mm. film lies in the educational field. It is safer, he points out. It cannot burn. It requires less expensive projection equipment and is therefore more suitable for use in schools, churches and other institutions. "In fact," he says, "the educational end is growing rapidly and in the future it will form the largest part of our business. Not only are we distributing 16 mm. educational films but we are also making them."

\$90,000 SUDBURY THEATRE

Sudbury, Ont. — The contract for R. G. Stevens new theatre here, has been let to Hill-Clark-Francis, Limited, at about \$90,000, for construction of this theatre which is to have a seating capacity of 1,200. Plans were drawn by H. G. Duerr, Toronto.

MODERNISTIC Theatre Seating Stage Curtains AND Slip Covers

**Canadian Theatre
Chair Co.**

277 Victoria St. - Toronto, Can.

CHARLES A. BOCHNER, Mgr.

QUINTUPLET RKO TWO-REELER

New York, N.Y. — Dr. Allen Roy Dafoe was in New York conferring with RKO Pathe officials about a new Quintuplet picture. The film, as yet untitled, will mark the fifth birthday of the little girls, and will be released to theatres in June through RKO Radio Pictures as a two-reel special.

In addition to the five-star birthday celebration, the short will present the eventful life history of the famous quintet, narrated by Alexander Woollcott, raconteur extraordinary.

In a series of conferences with Frederic Ullman, Jr., RKO Pathe vice-president, and Frank Donovan production manager, Dr. Dafoe agreed that the cameras might be set up in the Callendar nursery as soon as the Quins had rested after their call on the British King and Queen.

SCRAP FILM STUDIO

Victoria, B.C. — Work was begun on the demolition of the Central Films Limited studio, in the Industrial Building at the Willows exhibition grounds. Thousands of square yards of sound-proofing material was dismantled from the studio walls.

Central Films received its death blow when the British Parliament changed the interpretation of the words "British-made" in its film quota law. Since then, several attempts have been made to revive the Victoria industry both by representations to Britain through the provincial and dominion governments and by looking for new markets, but all to no avail.

The Central Films movie, made in December of 1937, starring Charles Quigley and Rita Hayworth, "Convicted", was shown at The Dominion Theatre here recently.

\$45,000 ON "PRINCESS"

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. — The Princess Theatre, a 470-seat house owned by Charles DePaul, is to be enlarged to more than twice its present seating capacity and completely renovated at a cost of approximately \$45,000. The building will be fire-proof throughout, and vitrolite glass and structural glass will be employed in the entrance and front of the new Princess.

TROUSERS STOLEN

Winnipeg, Man. — Entering the Tower Theatre, Mountain Avenue and McGregor Street, in Winnipeg, through a trap door in the roof, thieves forced open a small safe, but found it empty. They escaped with a pair of trousers and a loudspeaker.

"Wuthering Heights" ★★ Success Brilliant Intense Drama

"WUTHERING HEIGHTS"

GOLDWYN - U. A.

"JAY L" had a distinguished visitor this week which "extinguished" him from the Review Column — the same old-fashioned grippe which we moderns call, flu. So I went along to review "Wuthering Heights" for several reasons. Firstly, because I like the Goldwyn United Artists pictures, secondly, because I like Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier, the latter whom I have seen so many times on the London stage doing such excellent work, and thirdly, because the censors in a few provinces had a special interest in "Wuthering Heights"; and if there is any reason to ban or censor, or clip any of the strong adult offering in this story, I am interested not only in what is left, but what is censored.

"Wuthering Heights" is an adaptation of an Emily Bronte story, and as usual with Samuel Goldwyn pictures, the production has been given thorough and sincere handling, the objective being to deliver a picture brimful of values. Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur can be relied on to take a story for screen adaptation, bringing out of that story dramatic values and highlights.

The setting of "Wuthering Heights" is England-Mid-Victorian, I would say. There is the country squire who has two children, one the boy just as mean as a nasty boy can be, and the daughter who is as free and as wild as the moors of England. You have to know the moors, with their carpet of purple heather, their background of sky, the crags which dip down to the sea, to realize what that kind of a background would do to a sensitive child growing up with a moor as a playground. Merle Oberon is Cathy, the little girl who grows up with all the freedom-loving and passionate urge of the moors, and when her father, home from Liverpool, brings back with him a lad whom he has picked up on the streets, fatherless, motherless, Cathy's sympathies are directed toward the boy; and as they grow up they become bound to each other, emotionally and spiritually. Since the course of true love does not always run smoothly, Cathy does not marry this gipsy lad, but one in her own set, a fine type of man whom she learns to love, but to whom she is not bound as emotionally as she is to her girlhood love, Heathcliff (Lawrence Olivier), the gipsy lad.

There is a bit of the "Smilin' Through" atmosphere in this story, but "Wuthering Heights" is passionate, whereas "Smilin' Through" was sentimental. There is a double love story, in that Edgar (the country gentleman, David Niven) whom Cathy marries, has a sister who is nearly as turbulent as Cathy, and who also loves Heathcliff.

The picture, pictorially is a treat, it reaches several high spots in dramatic values. It holds your interest throughout, but in a few scenes there is a bit of a letdown, not through the work of the players, all of whom do splendid work, but in the situations. It may be due to the fact that there are so many climaxes, there is bound to be an anti-climax.

Ellen Dean (Flora Robson), narrates this story to prove the immortality of a love which survives beyond death! I have never seen Merle Oberon do such good work emotionally; and her face was softer in expression, that is, more full of expression than in former pictures. 'Cathy' is the best work Merle Oberon has ever done, and it reveals that her acting ability has developed. Laurence Olivier was excellent as Heathcliff, David Niven good as Edgar, Flora Robson splendid as Ellen Dean, Geraldine Fitzgerald most satisfactory as Isabella and so to the end of the cast which has that Goldwyn touch of showmanship which knows how to spend money to get perfection.

"Wuthering Heights" is an unusual picture and exhibitors should appreciate this fact and get the thousands and thousands into their theatre who know Emily Bronte's, "Wuthering Heights"; and who like something different, something human, for their screen entertainment.

"Wuthering Heights" was directed by William Wyler. The photography which is worth the price of admission, by Gregg Toland. Music score by Alfred Newman, which reminds me, that the brilliant harpsichordist is Madame Alice Ehlers, her playing in the ballroom scene was a feature.

"Jay L" would give this picture three stars, so like son, like mother.

Running time — just under 100 minutes.

THEATRE WANTED
To lease — in Ontario. Would
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BOX 47 — DIGEST

ED. KUYKENDALL OPPOSES NEELY BILL

Ed. Kuykendall, President of M.P.T.O.A., was the featured witness at a recent session before the Interstate Commerce Sub-Committee studying the movie legislation as proposed by Senator Neely.

Mr. Kuykendall claims that the Neely Bill will injure the Film Industry, that it is destructive rather than constructive. He stated at the finish of his address that the statement by Allied, that M.P.T.O.A. was "sold body and soul to producers", was a falsehood and personal attack upon him and his organization.

You know what The Digest thinks most exhibitors think of the Neely Bill, "Neely, Schmeely, give me the pictures!"

LICENSE INCREASE

Winnipeg, Man. — Manitoba's new Amusement Act measure provides for licenses for professional singers and companies "playing" the province. This has been urged by motion picture theatre men for a long time, these being considered "unfair" competition by theatre owners.

The new bill also provides for a new license schedule on all Manitoba theatres and places of amusement, graduated from \$5 to \$25, according to seating capacity. Under the present act the license fee is \$5 per theatre.

100 16MM. OPERATORS

Regina, Sask. — According to J. Game, secretary of General Films, Regina, his firm expects to be supplying product for close to one hundred 16mm. operators in Saskatchewan this year. Already many of the small town transient exhibitors are operating, but the trade will not be in full swing until around May 1.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Winnipeg, Man. — The Dominion Sound Equipment Co. staff is in Winnipeg to superintend the installation of a new high fidelity sound equipment in the Capitol Theatre. Manager Harold Bishop of the Capitol expects to be able to use this equipment for the first showing of RKO's "Vernon and Irene Castle" picture on Thursday.

Rex Theatre Opening, Regina, Nets \$1,200 For Charity

Golden Finds Commercial Film Practices Same in Canada and U.S.

By ROBERT LANSING

(Digest Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON is notoriously known to be constantly flooded with reports of some kind or another, which nobody is especially interested in. Most of these, of course, are reports of the Government, or concerning the Government. Recently, however, there has been issued a report which should prove of distinct interest to all persons in the film business, including showmen in Canada.

It is the Review of Foreign Film Markets for 1938, prepared by the Department of Commerce under Nathan D. Golden, Chief of the Motion Picture Division. This lengthy report takes up just about every country in the world and gives such data on each country as Legislation, Censorship, Competition, Copyright Relations, Production, Taxes, Theatres, Sound, and Educational Film Developments.

It is interesting to note what the Commerce Department has to say about the film situation in Canada. Under the heading of Censorship we find that "Canada, as a contiguous export market for the United States films and motion-picture equipment, probably has more in common with the domestic film market than with the foreign market which the American industry serves. Geographical propinquity, similarity of living standards, style preferences, and social organization, plus the extensive infiltration of motion-picture publicity and music via radio and magazines, as well as identical commercial practices in distribution of films, serve to emphasize the similarity between the Canadian and the domestic American market for the motion-picture industry."

The friendly relations enjoyed between Canada and the United States in films as well as other matters is demonstrated in the matter of American films rejected by Canadian censorship boards. It is pointed out that the percentage of rejections has continually dropped each year.

"Censorship in Canada is not strict in the full sense of that word, and in recent years has become more liberal," Golden reports. He points out that in 1929 there were 219 rejections and in the past 6 years the percentage of Ontario rejections has declined from 1.6 percent of total submission to 0.16 percent. "Points of objection naturally vary among the several censor boards," he states, "but the majority of complaints can be traced to moral or political reasons or a combination of

the two. Particular attention in recent years has been devoted to the attempted use of films for propaganda contrary to the democratic outlook of the Canadian people. Internal regulation and censorship within the United States film industry is unquestionably a factor in the recent trend of reduced cuts and rejections by the Canadian authorities."

When one looks through this entire report and notes the serious censorship methods of European countries it is impressing to note the unanimity and friendly relations which exist between the United States and Canada on motion pictures. The Canadian Moving Picture Digest correspondent ventures to say that this freedom of films is one of the contributing factors to the 3,000 miles of unfortified border that seems distinct in this world of today.

NEELY HEARINGS CLOSE

FOR the past two weeks a Committee of the United States Senate has been holding hearings on a bill which calls for abolition of block-booking and blind-selling, popularly known as the Neely Bill. For over two weeks the battle has raged and has now finally come to a close with the only tangible result—a voluminous record of testimony and exhibits.

For the past 11 years, this bill or one similar to it, has been kicking around Congress. Now that the matter has been aired again one wonders if it will still be alive at the next session. Looking at it from a political and practical standpoint, it would seem so. Last year Senator Neely succeeded in having the Upper House pass this bill but it didn't get to first base in the House of Representatives. It is by no means sure that the Senate will pass the bill this year but even if it does so it would be a fairly safe prediction to say that the House will again cause its doom by the simple process of not acting on it one way or another.

Congressman Lea of California, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, has already announced that his committee will have to hold hearings on the bill before any action is taken. It so happens, however, that his committee is chock full of work on more important matters, such as railroad legislation, and will not take the time to consider the movie measure.

PRESIDENT M.P. COUNCIL SUGGESTS DELAY ACTION

LOOKING at the recently-concluded Senate hearings from afar and in retrospect the conclusion seems to be that the match was pretty much of a draw between the exhibitors in favor of the bill and the producers who opposed it. There was another party in the case. Civic groups urged the bill on moral grounds, contending it would allow greater community selection and result in a higher quality screen. While these ladies were undoubtedly sincere their testimony was not convincing on this score and did not seem to impress either spectators or committee members. In addition it was offset considerably by the action of Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President, Motion Picture Research Council, which originally drafted the bill and has been its main backers, who sent a letter in the midst of the hearing suggesting that legislative action be delayed until the trade reform program of the distributors is given a chance to work. While he did not come out openly against the bill and did state that legislation may be the only answer, he told the Committee that if the distributors have presented a program that will cure the evils the bill attacks it should be given a chance.

This leaves the two main bodies in conflict; the exhibitors (some of them) and the producers. Thus the question seems to boil down to the one brought forth by Senator White of Maine. Should the Congress of the United States undertake to legislate on trade practices that affect only one industry? One could write on this question and the various answers of interested parties for page after page, but suffice it to say that this is what the whole matter ultimately comes down to.

The opponents say no and the proponents say yes. If the writer is correct in predicting that the Neely Bill will not become law this session then we will have a chance to see between this and the next Congress whether the motion picture industry is sincere in trying to settle its own problems or whether the trade reform draft was merely intended to stall action on the Neely Bill and other Government action.

RKO'S "Story Of Vernon And Irene Castle" Opens Imperial, Toronto

Shooting The Stars » » At The Studio

"Abe Lincoln In Illinois" current Broadway hit, starring Raymond Massey, has been bought by Max Gordon Plays and Pictures Corp. for distribution through RKO Radio . . . Olivia de Havilland has been lent by Warner Bros. to Sam Goldwyn for the feminine lead in "Raffles", in which she will appear opposite David Niven . . . Darryl F. Zanuck has announced the closing of a deal by which 20th Century-Fox acquired the rights to film Maurice Maeterlinck's "The Bluebird", in which Shirley Temple will star following the completion of "Lady Jane" . . . Lud Gluskin, noted composer and conductor, has been signed by Edward Small as musical director of "The Man in the Iron Mask", to be released through United Artists . . . "Maisie Was A Lady" starring Robert Young and Ann Sothern, has gone into production at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. Edwin L. Marin is directing . . . Margot Stevenson, stage actress who scored in the Broadway version of "You Can't Take It With You", has been signed by Warner Bros. to begin work on "Dust Be My Destiny", the Jerome Odlum (author of "Each Dawn I Die") film, starring John Garfield and Pat O'Brien . . . Jane Bryan, who was to play the leading feminine role in "Dust Be My Destiny", will move into the cast of "The Old Maid", Bette Davis-Miriam Hopkins co-starring picture . . . Walter

Wanger has assigned Richard Carlson, of the "Stars In Your Eyes" Broadway suc-



Jane Bryan, who has been added to the cast of Warner Bros.' "The Old Maid" in which Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins are featured.

cess, to the leading masculine role in his forthcoming production, "Winter Carnival". Warner Bros. have lent Ann Sheridan to be seen opposite Carlson in this United Artists release . . . Louis Bromfield's "The Rains Came" has started production, at the 20th Century-Fox studios, with Clarence Brown directing Tyrone Power, Myrna Loy and George Brent in the top roles . . . Sam Levene, stage and screen comedian, has been added to the cast of Columbia's Clifford Odets' Broadway stage success, "Golden Boy" . . . RKO Radio has added Florence Lake and Chester Clute to the cast of "Little Mother", now filming with Ginger Rogers and David Niven in the stellar roles . . . two of the popular 20th Century-Fox Series got under way this week with "The Jones Family at the Grand Canyon" and "Charlie Chan at Treasure Island" going into work . . . Irene Rich has been assigned the feminine lead in Warner's "The Hobby Family" . . . Alan Dinehart has been added to the cast of "Second Fiddle", the 20th Century-Fox - Irving Berlin musical starring Sonja Henie and Tyrone Power . . . Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios are now shooting on four, "Gone With The Wind", "On Borrowed Time", "Maisie Was A Lady" and "Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever" . . . Warner's "Family Reunion", featuring the Lane Sisters, John Garfield, Fay Bainter, will be released under the title "A Family Affair".

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

EGLINTON

2nd week. "The Girl Was Young" (G-B), starring Nova Pilbeam, and "The Great Man Votes" (RKO Radio), starring John Barrymore.

IMPERIAL

2nd week. "Three Smart Girls Grow Up" (Universal), starring Deanna Durbin.

LOEW'S

"Made For Each Other" (Selznick-U.A.) starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart, and "Within The Law" (M-G-M), starring Ruth Hussey, and Paul Kelly.

SHEA'S

"On Trial" (Warner Bros.), starring Margaret Lindsay and John Litel. Stage show, Ina Ray Hutton and her Melodians.

UPTOWN

"Love Affair" (RKO Radio), starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer, and "Background for War" (March of Time RKO Radio).

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"Midnight" (Paramount), starring Claudette Colbert and Don Ameche.

EMPIRE

"The Hoosier Schoolboy" (Monogram), starring Mickey Rooney, Anna Nagel and Frank Shields, and "London By Night" (M-G-M), starring George Murphy and Rita Johnston.

MAYFAIR

"Out West With The Hardys" (M-G-M) starring Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker, Fay Holden, and "The Mad Miss Manton" (RKO Radio), starring Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda.

STRAND

"You Can't Cheat An Honest Man" (Universal), starring Edgar Bergen and W. C. Fields.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Yes, My Darling Daughter" (Warner Bros.), starring Jeffrey Lynn and Priscilla Lane, and "On Trial" (Warner Bros.) starring Margaret Lindsay and John Litel.

LOEW'S

"The Mikado" (Universal release), starring Kenny Baker.

ORPHEUM

2nd week. "Prison Without Bars" (Korda-U.A.), starring Corinne Lu-chaire, and "Nancy Drew, Detective" (Warner Bros.), starring Bonita Granville and John Litel.

PALACE

2nd week. "Love Affair" (RKO Radio), starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer.

PRINCESS

"Four Girls In White" (M-G-M), starring Florence Rice, Kent Taylor and Ann Rutherford, and "The Lone Wolf Spy Hunt" (Columbia), starring Warren William.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Love Affair" (RKO Radio), starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer.

GAIETY

"The Great Waltz" (M-G-M), starring Luise Rainer and Fernand Gravet, and "Down on the Farm" (20th Century-Fox), starring the Jones Family.

GARRICK

2nd week. "Made For Each Other" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Carole Lombard and James Stewart.

RIO

2nd week. "Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs" (RKO Radio).

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Midnight" (Paramount), starring Claudette Colbert and Don Ameche.

STRAND

"You Can't Take It With You" (Columbia), starring Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold, and "Beauty For The Asking" (RKO Radio), starring Lucille Ball.

PALACE

"Ice Follies of 1939" (M-G-M), starring Joan Crawford and James Stewart, and "Burn 'Em Up, O'Connor" (M-G-M), starring Dennis O'Keefe and Cecilia Parker.

VANCOUVER

DOMINION

"They Made Me A Criminal" (Warner Bros.), starring John Garfield and the "Dead End" Kids, and "Honolulu" (M-G-M), starring Eleanor Powell, Robt. Young, George Burns and Gracie Allen.

CAPITOL

"Love Affair" (RKO Radio), starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer.

ORPHEUM

"Oklahoma Kid" (Warner Bros.), starring Humphrey Bogart and Rosemary Lane, and "Within The Law" (M-G-M), starring Ruth Hussey and Paul Kelly.

PLAZA

"Stagecoach" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Claire Trevor, John Wayne.